

their children by teaching about its heroes and traditions.

President Bush has taken leadership in this. He created a "We the People Program" to develop curriculum and sponsor lectures on American history and civics. He is also sponsoring a White House forum on the subject soon.

Last year the Senate authorized \$100 million to schools for the teaching of traditional American history and civics. A dozen senators, including the Democratic Whip, Harry Reid of Nevada, have joined in sponsoring our legislation. Congressman Roger Wicker and colleagues in the House of Representatives have introduced it there.

I have one more thing I need to say.

I want to read you one sentence from my so-called "maiden speech" to the Senate last week, because it elicited what one newspaper described as "harsh criticism from the civil rights community."

This is the sentence: "Some of our national leaders have celebrated multiculturalism and bilingualism and diversity at a time when there should have been more emphasis on a common culture and learning English and unity."

There are some real differences of opinion reflected in the criticism I got for saying that.

Some believe that America is just another country, and that it is embarrassing for us to claim it is truly exceptional.

Some believe it is old fashioned and wrong to try to define the principles that unite us as Americans because in the past it led us to excesses such as McCarthyism, because it can seem exclusionary and that we would be better off just being comfortable as descendants of wherever we came from.

Most important, we have not been able to put behind us the memory that the ancestors of some of us who didn't come for the same reasons most did. Native Americans were already here, and the ancestors of most African-Americans, like Kunta Kinte, were captured in their villages, transported in the stinking bellies of slave ships to this country and sold into bondage. It is hard to put that out of one's memory.

WHY UNITY TRUMPS DIVERSITY

Here is what I believe.

I believe that America's variety and diversity is a magnificent strength. I have always sought that in my own life and for my children.

But diversity is not our greatest strength. Jerusalem is diverse.

The Balkans are diverse.

The greatest challenge we face in Iraq is not winning a war but turning diversity into unity after the war.

The greatest accomplishment of the United States of America, after establishing freedom and democracy, is that we've found a way to take all our magnificent variety and diversity and unite as one country.

I preside a great deal as a freshman senator. Engraved above the Senate president's chair, for every C-SPAN viewer to see, are the three Latin words that form the original motto of our country, *E Pluribus Unum*—Out of many, one.

It is NOT many, out of one.

As Samuel Huntington has observed, if it were many out of one, we would be the United Nations, not the United States of America.

"PLEDGE PLUS THREE"

Now, since 9/11, there has been a different tone in our country. The terrorists focused their cross hairs on the ideas that unite us—forcing us to remind ourselves of those principles, to examine and define them, and to celebrate them.

President Bush has been the lead teacher, literally taking us back to school on tele-

vision about what it means to be an American.

We should join our President in this National discussion.

One way would be for each school to start each day the way the Senate does—with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a teacher or student saying in his or her own words for three minutes "what it means to be an American." It would be a daily lesson in American history and civics for the whole school.

When I decided to run for the Senate a year ago, I was a member of the faculty at Harvard's school of government, teaching a course in "The American Character and America's Government."

The students and I were trying to figure out if there is "an American way" to solve tough public policy problems.

It was easy for us to define the principles that unite us, such as: liberty, equal opportunity, rule of law, *laissez faire*, individualism, *e pluribus unum*, the separation of church and state.

But applying those principles to real problems turned out to be hard work. The Senate was reminded of this yesterday when we debated partial birth abortion: it was the liberty of a woman versus the life of a baby.

We see these conflicts of principle when we discuss President Bush's faith-based charity proposal because on the one hand, "In God We Trust," but on the other hand, we don't trust government with God.

I want the federal government to pay for scholarships that would follow children to any accredited school—public, private or religious. To me that is equal opportunity. To the National Education Association it is the violation of separation of church and state and of the principle of *e pluribus unum*.

As Samuel Huntington has written, most of our politics is about conflicts among principles that unite us—and about disappointments that occur when we try to live up to our greatest dreams." "All men are created equal," we say, but there is still racism in America. "We will pay any price, bear any burden to defend freedom," President Kennedy said, but we didn't go to Rwanda, and there is a great debate about going to Iraq.

If the conflicts among these principles and our disappointment in not reaching them is what most of our politics and government are about—then we had better get busy teaching them again.

My best student in my last class at Harvard was Natalia Kubay. She had grown up in Ukraine, married a Peace Corps worker and moved to Boston. She was waiting for her citizenship. Her enthusiasm for her new country was so great that it infected all of us who were privileged to be in the classroom with her. She hopes one day, after she is a citizen, to run for office and serve in government.

Natalia is proud of her family and her native country. When she takes the oath of a naturalized citizen in the federal courthouse in Boston, as you did today, she will be living in this nation of immigrants, proud of where she came from, but prouder to be able to say, "We are all Americans."

Thank you.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to commemorate the 47th anniversary of Tunisia's independence.

Since the establishment of the Republic of Tunisia, it has made significant progress in the areas of social and economic development, transparency of the electoral process, respect for human rights, and the promotion of women's rights.

As the Bush administration recently stated, Tunisia has become a force for tolerance and moderation in the region.

It has been a vital partner with the United States in our efforts to facilitate dialogue in the Arab world. This role has become increasingly important in this turbulent time.

I would also like to express my appreciation for Tunisia's continued support and cooperation in the fight against terrorism.

By working together against this common enemy, we will eliminate the threat of terrorism and ensure international peace and security.

Our shared commitments towards this end will only serve to strengthen our relations in the future.

I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating the government and people of Tunisia on the occasion of their 47th anniversary of independence.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

IN CELEBRATION OF THURGOOD MARSHALL AWARD RECIPIENT DALE MINAMI

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to recognize Dale Minami, the 2003 recipient of the American Bar Association's Thurgood Marshall Award.

Mr. Minami has had a successful law practice in San Francisco for many years. Additionally, for over 30 years, Mr. Minami has worked tirelessly to promote civil liberties and social justice. He has selflessly provided pro bono legal representation to minorities and disadvantaged communities. Because of his dedication, Mr. Minami has become an accomplished leader in the national civil rights community.

Among his many accomplishments in the courtroom, Mr. Minami is known for successfully reopening the landmark Supreme Court cases of Fred Korematsu, Gordon Hirabayashi, and Minoru Yasui. The Supreme Court subsequently overturned their convictions for refusal to be interned during WWII.

Mr. Minami cofounded the Asian Law Caucus, the first Asian Pacific legal service organization in the Nation, established in 1972. Mr. Minami also helped establish the Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Bay Area in 1976, the first Asian American Bar Association in the country. Additionally, he helped found the Asian Pacific Bar of California. He has also taught and lectured at various colleges and universities and has spoken widely across our country.

Mr. Minami has also been involved in developing public policy and legislation. He has volunteered his time on numerous boards and commissions, including California's Fair Employment and Housing Commission, the California Attorney General's Asian Pacific Advisory Committee, and the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund

Commission. I am pleased and honored to say that Mr. Minami also served as a member of my Judicial Screening Committee, from 1993 to 1996. Mr. Minami did an outstanding job on the committee, and his contributions were invaluable. He has been a successful advocate for increasing the selection of African Americans, Latinos, Native Americans, and Asian Americans for executive and judicial appointments at both State and Federal levels.

Dale Minami embodies the legacy of Thurgood Marshall. I commend him for his dedication, hard work, and many achievements in the areas of civil liberties and social justice and wish him well in all future endeavors. He is the kind of person who makes my State and our country a better place. ●

COMMEMORATING THE 47TH ANNIVERSARY OF TUNISIA'S INDEPENDENCE

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, today, Tunisia commemorates the 47th anniversary of its independence from France. Our two countries share a long friendship that began in 1797, when Tunisia was one of the first countries to sign a Treaty of Peace and Friendship with the United States. In 1956, when Tunisia gained independence from France, the United States was one of the first countries to recognize Tunisia's independence. This long relationship has served as the backdrop for our increased cooperation in the efforts to combat international terrorism. Our shared commitments to peace, security, and stability in the world will remain the most important principles guiding our relationship throughout the 21st century.

I am pleased by Tunisia's commitment to further strengthen the democratic values that our two countries share as the foundation for free and open societies, and I am confident its leaders will continue to work toward promoting greater political freedom and respect for human rights throughout the region.

I wish the Tunisian people the best as they celebrate their country's successful transition from colony to republic. I look forward to many more years of cooperation and friendship between the United States and Tunisia.

HONORING DR. GEORGE V. IRONS, SR.'S INDUCTION INTO THE ALABAMA MEN'S HALL OF FAME

● Mr. SESSIONS. I rise today to honor Dr. George V. Irons, Sr.'s induction into the Alabama Men's Hall of Fame. Dr. Irons was Distinguished Professor of History and Political Science at Samford University for 43 years and a prominent civic leader. As a professor, he taught 17 students who became university presidents—a record in American education.

Dr. Irons was also one of Alabama's true athletic greats—the only University of Alabama track field athlete

ever inducted into the prestigious Alabama Sports Hall of Fame. He is also the only person inducted by both Alabama Sports Hall of Fame and the Alabama Men's Hall of Fame.

While a student at the University of Alabama, he was spotted by Coach Hank Crisp running across the campus because he was late to class. Coach Crisp promptly put him on the track team where he set a collegiate record the first time he pulled on a Crimson Tide uniform. Remarkably, his records still stand today.

Before the days of the million-dollar band at major football games, halftime entertainment consisted of a sport called road racing. After laps in the stadium runners would speed over a hill-and-dale course, about 4 miles, finishing as the halftime show. In this realm, his feats have been heralded by as the greatest of his era.

The Men's Hall of Fame was created by the Alabama Legislature in 1987 to honor posthumously those men who in their chosen professions have made national and international impact for the betterment of humanity. Past inductees include some of America's most distinguished leaders: Warner Von Braun, famed scientist who developed rockets which propelled American astronauts to the Moon; George Washington Carver, botanist who mutated plants to create vital food sources throughout the South; and James A. "Brother" Bryan, who gave sacrificially to fellow Alabamians during some of the severest economic times.

Its most recent inductee, Dr. Irons, joined the Howard College (now Samford University) staff in 1933, the depth of the Great Depression. On his first day the College President asked him to report to the bank to try to stop mortgage foreclosure on the school. At this time, the school owed over a half million dollars. Dr. Irons' personality and persuasion on behalf of the college won the day, saving the school from foreclosure. During difficult economic times, he often taught for the salary of an IOU and in his spare time he coached the college track team and fired the dorm furnace.

In 1962 he received Freedom Foundation's George Washington Medal of Honor for his speech: "Freedom, America's Weapon of Might." It was broadcast worldwide on the U.S. Armed Forces Network. He was the first Alabamians to win this award. He also distinguished himself through military service in World War II and was a respected leader in civic, social, and professional organizations.

Dr. Irons was elected to the Alabama Men's Hall of Fame as the representative of the entire 20th Century. J.L.M. Curry, former Congresswoman and ambassador whose statue as one of Alabama's two representatives in the Capitol's Statuary Hall collection, was elected for the nineteenth century.

It is good this revered Hall of Fame honors those heroes who celebrate the best of our past. I am hopeful that Dr.

Irons' life as an athlete, university educator, military serviceman, and community leader will continue to serve as an inspiration for future generations. ●

JAMIL DADA, RECIPIENT OF THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA FIVE NATIONS DISTRICT 2003 DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN GOOD SCOUT OF THE YEAR AWARD

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I would like to take this moment to reflect on the exceptional work of Jamil Dada, who will be honored by the Boy Scouts of America's Five Nations District with its 2003 Distinguished Citizen Good Scout of the Year Award on March 21, 2003.

Jamil Dada is exceptionally qualified for this award, with a strong record of serving others in his community in Riverside County and the broader region. His contributions to both local and regional community organizations have made a significant difference to countless Californians.

Mr. Dada's most prominent role is that of chairperson for the Riverside County Workforce Development Board, working to ensure a healthy, well-trained workforce for the county. In addition, Mr. Dada devotes his time as a board member for the Boy Scouts of America Inland Empire Council, the Family Service Association of Western Riverside County, the Magnolia Center Division of the Greater Riverside Chamber of Commerce, the Police Activities League in Moreno Valley, the Planned Giving Advisory Board of UC Riverside, the Riverside Community College Foundation, and the United Way of the Inland Valleys.

In the city of Moreno Valley, he demonstrates his broad capacity for leadership as the vice chairman of the Moreno Valley Chamber of Commerce, the treasurer of the Moreno Valley Substance Abuse Task Force, and vice president of the Community Assistance Program, which provides food to those in need.

Mr. Dada is also an Honorary Commander at March Air Reserve Base, where he serves as vice president of the March Field Air Museum, chairman of the Friends of March Field, and treasurer of the March Air Reserve Base Forum.

It is clear that Jamil Dada is an outstandingly active, concerned citizen, and I am extremely proud to extend my sincere congratulations to him on this much deserved recognition from the Boy Scouts of America Five Nations District.

I send my best wishes for a memorable celebration of Jamil Dada's accomplishments and for his continued success. ●

CELEBRATING NATIONAL SAFE PLACE WEEK

● Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, as our country faces imminent war with Iraq, and current events of the day may turn